

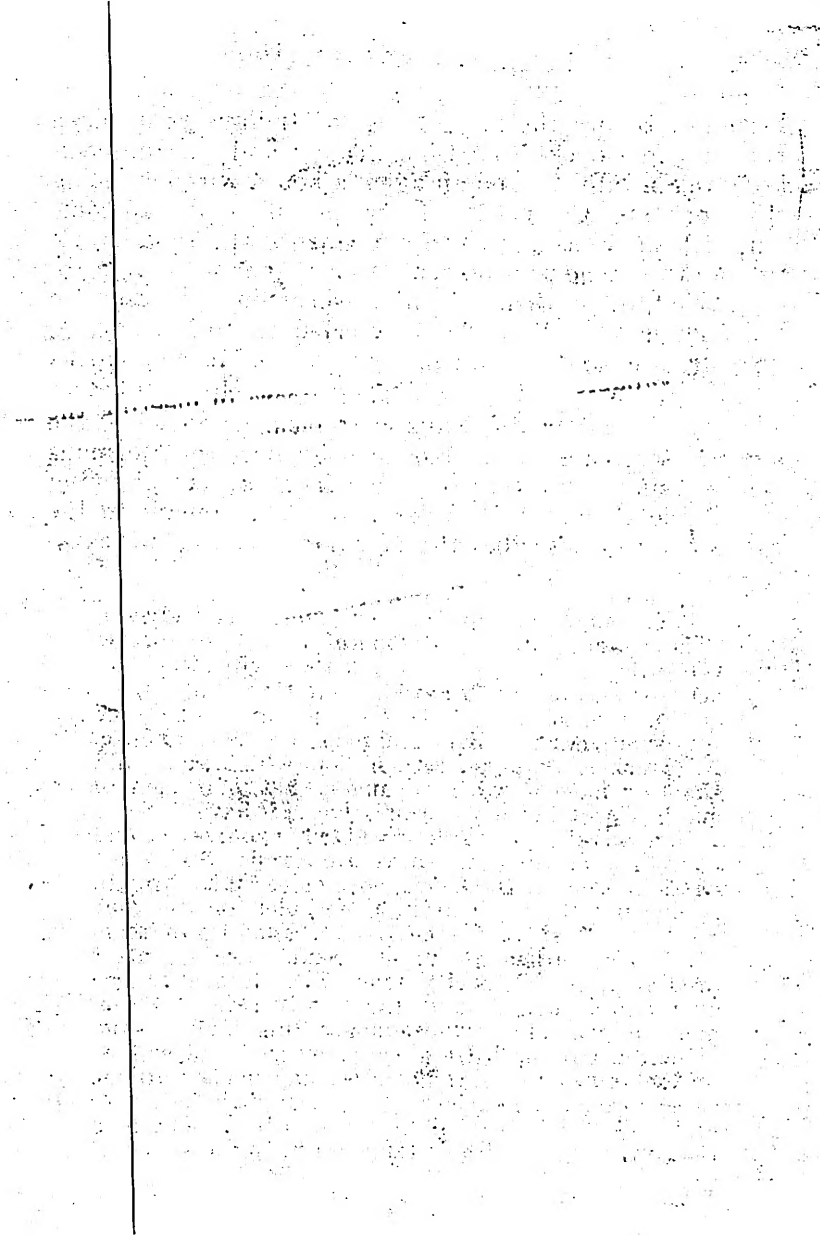
brought. Before the main group of Indians returned a runner came back from Chief Tabby and was immediately taken into the Indian agent's house without seeing the Mormons. Colonel Head, the Indian agent, had come out with the expedition and admonished the Indians not to take the cattle as a present from Brigham Young. He even tried to buy them for the Government to present to the Indians, but Wall flatly rejected the offer, saying, "No sir, you can't buy them, for they are Mormon cattle, and if the Indians eat them they will eat Mormon beef."<sup>11</sup>

The day before the Indians arrived the owner of the agency store came to the blockhouse where the Mormons were staying to tell them that the Indians were planning to kill them. Joseph S. MacDonald, a lieutenant in the cavalry troop, describes the Mormon's hurried preparations:

The man who kept the store came over and said, "They intend killing everyone of you. I cannot see you killed for nothing. I think they will attack tomorrow night. Now, I have ammunition of all kinds, and as soon as it gets dark so the agent can't see you, send your men over and pack it into this house. All I ask is that you return that which you don't shoot. I have a two inch auger. Set your men to making port holes for yourselves. I have a forty gallon barrel. Fill it full of water for yourselves and pack in wood for use. I have a big rope. Sink some posts in front of the house, bore holes right through it, and put the rope through the holes and tie your horses to it so they (the Indians) can't run them off." We worked all night. Next morning, after breakfast, we felt pretty good. The old agent came over and looked around and finally said, "Gentlemen, do you know whose house this is?" I said, "Uncle's, I guess." He never answered and walked on looking at the port holes we had made until he came to one. When he looked through it he swore and said, "That is straight for my door!" The man that owned the port hole tapped him on the shoulder

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<sup>11</sup>William Lindsay, *op. cit.*, p. 8.



friends and eat some of their beef. A feast was held in the bowery at Heber; and the Indians were given blankets, flour, and eighty head of cattle to alleviate their suffering.<sup>15</sup>

A brief account of the military leader, William Madison Wall, will illustrate the courageous leadership available to the Wasatch pioneers in meeting the Indian threat. He was the son of Isaac and Nancy Wall, born September 30, 1821, in Rottenham County, North Carolina. He joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1842, and when the saints left Nauvoo, Illinois, on their westward march he accompanied them. He assisted in organizing the Mormon Battalion, and in 1850 he crossed the plains in the seventh pioneer company as a captain of fifty.<sup>16</sup> He settled in Provo, Utah, and was bishop of the Provo Fourth Ward there from 1852 to 1854. In 1856 the Church called him for a mission to Australia, where he served as President of the New South Wales Conference until June of 1857.<sup>17</sup>

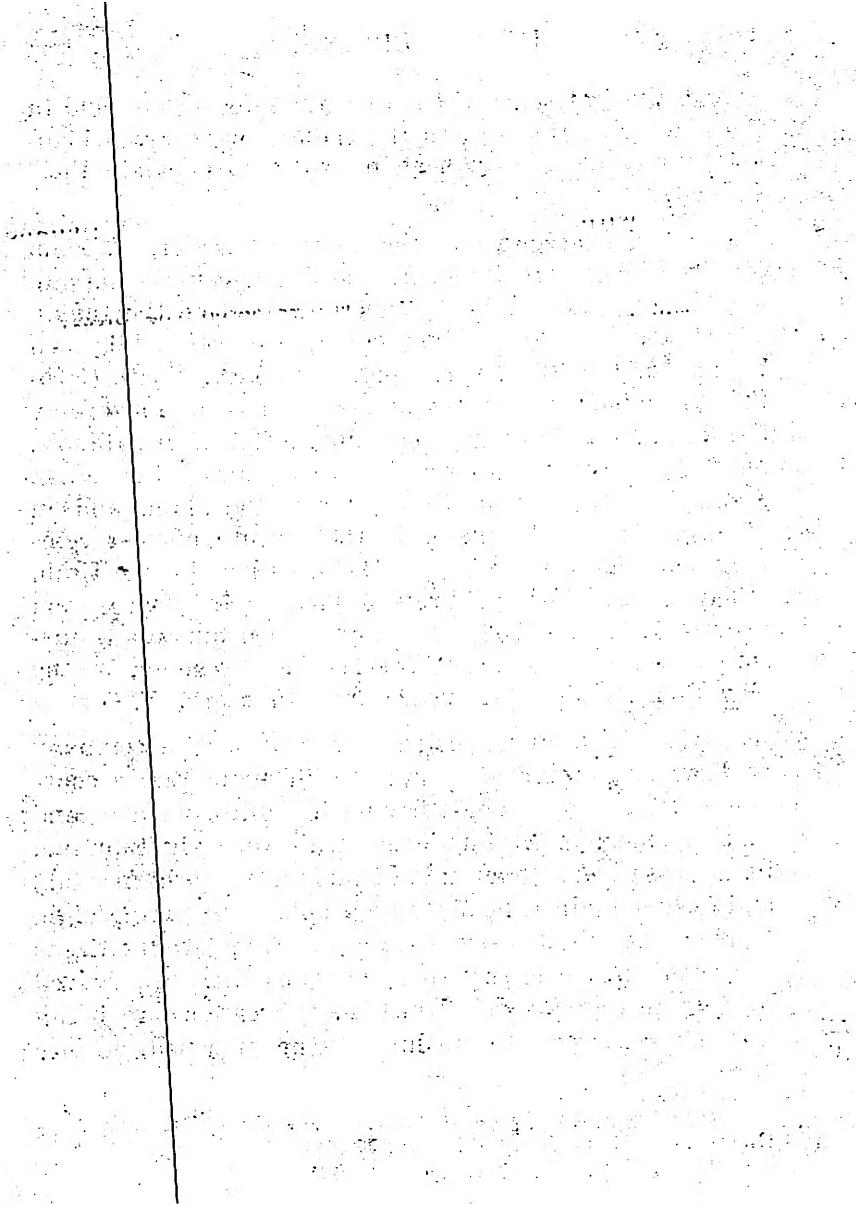
His return from Australia in charge of a company of Mormon immigrants serves to illustrate Wall's courage and tenacity. Upon arriving in California he found much animosity. An immigrant train for California had been massacred at Mountain Meadows, in southern Utah, and feeling against the Mormon people was running high. During the night various groups of angered citizens sought his life even though he had just that day arrived by ship in San Pedro. Twice they threatened to break into his hotel room to kill him. Being unarmed, he tore

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<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup>"Biographical papers of Andrew Jenson," (L. D. S. Church Historian's Office, Salt Lake City, 1916).

<sup>17</sup>*Journal History*, December 12, 1857.



## "UNDER WASATCH SKIES"

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William Wall  
and his five wives,  
Nancy, Emma,  
Elizabeth, Suzie,  
and Sarah



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